

Appl. No.: 10/605,050
Amdt. Dated: 3/10/2004
Reply to Office action of: 01/28/2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An integrated retractable automotive cargo tie-down assembly comprising:

- a) a plurality of spaced apart tie-down cords, each such tie-down cord having a proximal end and a distal end, each of said proximal ends having hooks attached permanently thereto, said proximal ends located in the a cargo compartment of an automotive vehicle, and said distal ends attached behind the interior walls of the a cargo area of said automotive vehicle, wherein said tie-down cords pass through the interior walls through a plurality of spaced apart openings;
- b) said plurality of openings in said interior walls each having a hook retaining channel in commutation therewith to hold said hooks in a utility hook manner against said interior walls when said tie-down cords are in a fully retracted position, and
- c) a plurality of spaced apart tie-down bars located on the a cargo area floor for securing said hooks on said proximal ends of said tie-down cords,

thereby allowing the securing of cargo within the cargo area of an automotive vehicle.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The integrated retractable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein, said tie-down cords comprise a length when relaxed which causes the hooks to be positioned in said channels in ~~said side~~ the interior walls and when said tie-down cords are fully extended reach substantially about half way across the width of said cargo area.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The integrated retractable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein, said hooks comprise a hook portion and a head having a configuration allowing easy grasping of said hooks.

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Claim 4 (currently amended): The integrated retractable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein, said tie-down bars are recessed below ~~the~~ a cargo floor upper surface.

Claim 5 (original): The integrated retractable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein, said tie-down cords comprise bungee cords.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The integrated retractable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein, said hooks have a stem and ball end on the back to allow the hooks to pop into and be secured to the interior ~~eargo~~ walls.

Claim 7 (original): The integrated retractable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein, said hooks have a male screw thread compatible with a complimentary female screw thread in each of said plurality of openings for locking said hooks in a utility hook position.

Claim 8 (original): The integrated retractable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein, said tie-down cords distal ends are permanently attached.

Claim 9 (original): The integrated retractable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein, said tie-down cords distal ends are removably attached.

Claim 10 (original): The integrated retractable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 1 wherein, said tie-down cords comprise nylon webbing attached at their distal ends to a mechanical retractor means.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An integrated removable automotive cargo tie-down assembly comprising:

- a) a plurality of spaced apart tie-down cords, each such tie-down cord having a proximal end and a distal end, each of said proximal ends having hooks attached permanently thereto, said proximal ends located in ~~the~~ a cargo compartment of an automotive vehicle, and said distal ends attached to ~~the~~

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- interior walls of ~~the~~ a cargo area of said automotive vehicle by a plurality of spaced apart attachment openings;
- b) said plurality of tie-down cord distal ends each having a retaining device for attaching said tie-down cord distal ends to said plurality of spaced apart attachment openings,
 - c) said plurality of attachment openings in said interior walls each having a complimentary tie-down cord distal ends retaining device in commutation therewith to attach said plurality of tie-down cord distal ends to said interior walls, and
 - d) a plurality of spaced apart tie-down bars located on ~~the~~ a cargo area floor and the seat backs of the rear seats for securing said hooks on said proximal ends of said tie-down cords,

thereby allowing the securing of cargo within the cargo area floor of an automotive vehicle.

Claim 12 (original): The integrated removable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 11 wherein, said tie-down cords comprises a length when said tie-down cords are fully extended that reaches substantially about half way across the width of said cargo area.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The integrated removable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 11 wherein, said hooks comprise a hook portion and a head having a configuration allowing easy grasping of said hooks.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The integrated removable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 11 wherein, said tie-down bars are recessed below ~~the~~ a cargo floor upper surface and recessed below ~~the~~ a rear seat back surface.-

Claim 15 (original): The integrated removable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 11 wherein, said tie-down cords comprise bungee cords.

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Claim 16 (currently amended): The integrated retractable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 11 wherein, said hooks have a stem and ball end on the back to allow the hooks to pop into and be secured to the interior cargo walls.

Claim 17 (original): The integrated retractable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 11 wherein, said tie-down cords are removable when not in use.

Claim 18 (original): The integrated removable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 11 wherein, said tie-down cords may be mounted in any of said plurality of spaced apart attachment openings.

Claim 19 (original): The integrated removable cargo tie-down assembly as claimed in Claim 11 wherein, said plurality of tie-down cord distal end retaining devices each further have a tie-down hook attaching device.